

Holland plans active retirement

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Hockey facility open

Suburban Training Center, featuring two NHL, regulation-sized ice sheets, full-service pro shop and fitness center, opened for business this month in Farmington Hills. The facility is designed specifically for hockey training.

The fitness center contains a weight room on the lower level with free weights and Icarian fitness equipment and a cardio room on the viewing level with treadmills, stair climbers and stationary cycles.

Membership packages are available for teams as well as individuals.

The facility will offer programs for the general public, too. They include a figure skating club, group lessons for youth groups, birthday party packages and a lunch skate.

The instructional staff of Suburban Hockey Schools will be available for specialized on- and off-ice training for teams and individuals. For more information call (248) 478-1600.

Prep officials honored

Three sports officials from Farmington will be among the 193 honored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association for their longtime service at the 19th Annual Officials Awards and Alumni Banquet April 25 at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel.

Jack Inch of Farmington will receive a 30-year service plaque, Elizabeth McConnell and Andrew Howell 20-year awards.

The banquet also will feature the announcement of the 1998 recipient of the Vern L. Norris Award, which is named for the former MHSAA executive director.

The Norris Award goes to an official with more than 20 years of experience who has been active in his/her local officials association, has mentored other officials and has been involved in the education of officials.

Tickets are available to the public and cost \$15. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information call Dolores Lake at (517) 932-5046.



Sports leader: Ron Holland has been in charge of athletics for Farmington Public Schools for 15 years and has seen a lot of games and prep sports events during a 37-year career in Farmington.

Ron Holland will retire as athletic director for the Farmington Public Schools at the end of the 1997-98 academic year, but he will stay active with plans to golf, travel and spend time with his grandsons.

During his four decades as a teacher, coach and administrator, Ron Holland was accustomed to making lesson plans, game plans and schedule plans.

So it's only natural Holland has a plan for his retirement, too.

He will end a 37-year association with Farmington Public Schools when he leaves his post as athletic director June 26.

"I just think it's time for me to go," he said.

Holland, who turned 62 in early April, will devote his time and energy to what he calls his five Gs.

They are grandchildren, golf, giving time back to the community, grab and go (travel) and God.

Holland and his wife, JoAnn, have a 19-month-old grandson, River, and another, Drake, who is due to arrive in August. The Hollands would like to spend some of their added free time with them.

Their daughter, Ronalee, a 1987 graduate of North Farmington, and her husband, Andy Rymsha, live in Germany where he plays professional hockey.

That leads to the fourth G. With the freedom to pick up and go, the Hollands want to do more traveling.

"We want to get out and go somewhere," Holland said, adding he has been to Germany and Switzerland. "When the kids go back to Germany, we'd like to go with them."

"They live in lower Bavaria, so we ended up going to Austria, Budapest, Innsbruck. We'd like to go to Italy and France."

Holland aspires to do community work and volunteer his services to drive needy people to the hospital. A lifelong Methodist who participates in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Holland plans to devote more time to his faith, too.

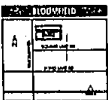
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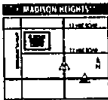
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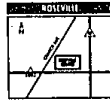
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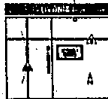
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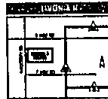
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